

**California Department of Public Health  
Immunization Branch  
Tdap Expansion Program  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q**uestion: Who is eligible to apply for the program?

**A**nswer: Birthing hospitals, Children's Hospitals, hospitals with NICU's, Community Health Centers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Centers, and Indian Health Centers. In addition, outpatient clinics associated with hospitals can apply to provide vaccine to the household contacts.

**Q**uestion: Who can the vaccine be given to?

**A**nswer: Pregnant women, post-partum women and close household contacts of infants.

**Q**uestion: What are the age restrictions of the vaccine?

**A**nswer: CDPH recommends that Tdap be given to clients over the age of 7.

**Q**uestion: What do I need to do to apply?

**A**nswer: Please complete the enrollment form and sign the provider agreement. You may include your first order with your enrollment papers.

**Q**uestion: Who can sign the provider agreement?

**A**nswer: Any physician within your organization that is willing to act as the responsible physician for this project. For example, it could be the Chief of Staff or the head of the Labor and Delivery Unit. It must be signed by a physician, it cannot be signed by a pharmacy director.

**Q**uestion: How long will the program last?

**A**nswer: This is a short-term project funded with one-time ARRA funds. It is currently scheduled to end September 30, 2010.

**Q**uestion: Is there a chance it will be extended beyond September 30, 2010?

**A**nswer: If we are able to identify additional funding, we would certainly extend the program. If that were to occur, we would notify all participants.

**Q**uestion: Can a hospital immunize just post-partum women if they don't have a mechanism to immunize household contacts?

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**A**nswer: Yes, hospitals may immunize post-partum moms only.

**Q**uestion: Is this vaccine subject to normal VFC age and eligibility requirements?

**A**nswer: No, this vaccine is not subject to VFC age or other eligibility requirements.

**Q**uestion: Can I use this vaccine to immunize household contacts with insurance?

**A**nswer: If a client has insurance we would encourage you to use private stock and bill the insurance. This vaccine should be reserved for uninsured adults that don't have another mechanism to receive it. The vaccine is being provided with government funds and therefore should be used on those that don't have other means to receive the vaccine.

**Q**uestion: For hospitals that are immunizing household contacts, can a single authorization log (such as the one used for seasonal flu vaccine) be used if all components of required documentation are captured?

**A**nswer: Yes, an authorization log can be used. We recommend that all clinic logs be kept for 7 years.

**Q**uestion: Can hospitals or clinics use this vaccine to immunize staffs that have contact with infants?

**A**nswer: No, this vaccine cannot be used for staff vaccination.

**Q**uestion: Can I charge an administration fee? If so, what is the maximum fee?

**A**nswer: Organizations can charge an administration fee. However, patients cannot be denied immunization due to inability to pay the fee. The maximum that can be charged is \$17.55 per dose.

**Q**uestion: We have a pharmacy grade refrigerator that has other medication. Does that meet the refrigerator requirement?

**A**nswer: Yes, as long as the medication is stored on a separate shelf and the refrigerator meets all of the other requirements, it is fine.

**Q**uestion: How long does it take until I get vaccine?

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**A**nswer: If you are a current VFC provider and there are no problems with your paperwork, your order will be submitted within one week and you should receive vaccine 2-3 weeks after that. If you are not a VFC provider, then you will need to have a site visit. A CDPH representative will contact you within two weeks to coordinate a time that they can come visit your site.

**Q**uestion: What is involved in the site visit?

**A**nswer: One of our Field Representatives will schedule a time to visit your facility. They will inspect your vaccine storage units and ensure that they meet the requirements. They will review the project requirements and provide an opportunity for you to ask any questions about the project.

**Q**uestion: I have an F Pin. Why do I need a site visit?

**A**nswer: Due to the timing and sheer number of providers that were we had to enroll to administer H1N1 vaccine, we eliminated the site visit requirement for last flu season. Our normal enrollment process for all state provided vaccines requires a site visit to verify storage units.

**Q**uestion: What kind of reporting is needed for this project?

**A**nswer: We ask that you report the number of post-partum women and house hold contacts immunized. This information will be collected on your order form when you place additional orders.

**Q**uestion: How often can I order vaccine?

**A**nswer: We ask projects to order on a monthly basis.

**Q**uestion: Who will the vaccine come from?

**A**nswer: The vaccine will be shipped by the federal government's national distribution, McKesson Specialty. The packing slip will reference the CA VFC Program. Unfortunately we cannot include any special documentation that this is from the Tdap Expansion Program.

**Q**uestion: I am an existing VFC provider with a Pin, but I want my vaccine delivered to a different address. Is that possible?

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**A**nswer: We will need to establish a new Pin with the new address. Our system allows for only one address per Pin. If we were to change the address, it would change it for all regular VFC vaccine deliveries.

**Q**uestion: I am an existing VFC provider. Can I just add additional Tdap to my regular order form?

**A**nswer: No. We require that you order Tdap vaccine for this project on the special Tdap Order Form.